

(2) oral agreements, at least in cases where the lease is admitted or proved by Civil Court record ;

(3) suits brought outside the revenue year, or year of tenancy.

*Reply of Government.*—Impracticable.

SUBJECT No. 154.

Royalty on stones, sand, etc.

Messrs. Venkataramiah, and Ranganna, Manjarabad Taluk.

*Summary of discussion.*—(a) Ryots of a village are allowed to remove free of cost, stones; earth, sand, etc., from their own village but they are charged with royalty when they remove such articles from other villages. Pray that the ryots of one village be allowed to take earth, stones, etc., from another neighbouring village free from royalty.

(b) The Public Works contractors are in the habit of removing earth, stones, etc., for purposes of road and other works without payment of any royalty thereon as required by the Government Order in the matter. Moreover these contractors should be directed to remove stones, etc., in such a way as not to cause inconvenience to the people of villages.

*Reply of Government.*—(a) The privileges given under existing rules are sufficient.

(b) Noted.

FOREST.

(Nos. 155 to 176.)

SUBJECT No. 155.

A Committee to consider the question of forest denudation.

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao, Chikmagalur Taluk.

*Summary of discussion.*—There is an opinion in some quarters that the forests are now being overworked. The Forest Department does not, however, accept the correctness of this statement. A Committee may be appointed to consider the question of denudation of forests.

For a timber tree to attain maturity it takes from 100 to 150 years. The number of trees likely to attain this age is rapidly decreasing. In the Muthodi State Forest, there used to be formerly 40 or 50 such trees per acre. Now there are only about 10.

*Reply of Government.*—Noted.

SUBJECT No. 156.

The bonus on sandal trees.

(1) Messrs. Karibasaiya and Ramachandrappa Dube, Kumsi sub-taluk; Messrs. C. Vamana Rao, Subba Rao, Nagar taluk.

*Summary of discussion.*—(1) Owing to the profuse growth of sandal trees in the malnad, the rule requiring the *darkhastdar* to pay the present value of the bonus of sandal trees on the lands applied for by him for cultivation is at present a hindrance to the free expansion of cultivation, as the present value of such bonus is, in several cases, a heavy sum. It is prayed that the present rule may be so altered as to vest the entire right over the sandal trees in Government. This will be beneficial both to the Government and the ryots.

(2) The promise of refund of the amount paid by the ryot at some distant future date is a possibility so